



TO: LISA VAN ALSTYNE, THOMAS BARNES
FROM: BARLOW, PETER H
SUBJECT: WIKI POST: FEDERALLY-FUNDED VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON WSFR-SUPPORTED PROJECTS
DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 2013

Question: Can 'National Call to Service Participants', such as Americorps, Peace Corps, and Vista Volunteers' time be used as match on a WSFR-funded project? What is the enabling legislation for this decision?

Decision: No. Although these volunteers may work on federally-funded projects, their services may not be used by a grantee to fulfill the match requirement to federal funds provided through WSFR.

Discussion: Statutory authority provides that federal agencies may provide assistance towards the matching component of Americorps-funded grant projects, but Americorps assets may not be used as the matching component on grants funded through other federal agencies. According to Chapter 42 of the US Code, "The Corporation (for National and Community Service) may not provide a grant under this section to a Federal Agency." In addition, the chapter goes on to say that Corporation assets (money, materials, or labor) may not be used as match on federally-funded grant projects. The 2010 Appropriations Act gives further information about how funding and match requirements are administered with regards to Americorps grants, and the use of Americorps dollars for match on other awards.

In addition to this US Code excerpt, the Code of Federal Regulations, at 45 CFR §2521.45, says that "Contributions, including third party in-kind, must not be included as contributions for any other Federally-assisted program." Although WSFR projects may be administered through the states or other agencies, funding ultimately comes from the Federal Government, and therefore a federally funded volunteer organization such as Americorps, and any of their assets cannot be used to contribute to the matching requirement on Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration program funds.

The WSFR Branch of Policy has conferred with the Assistant Inspector General for the Corporation for National and Community Service, their Director of Grants Management, as well as grants managers for other federally-funded volunteer organizations on this decision. These organizations concur with our decision.

Please see the links below in order to access the referenced authorities directly.

45 CFR 2521.45 – Limitations on Federal government's share of program costs?

42 U.S.C. 12571 - Authority to provide assistance and approved national service positions.

PUBLIC LAW 111-117 – Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010.